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Agenda item 164
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
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Letter dated 14 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a heinous act of terrorism which was perpetuated today in the heart of Israel by a Palestinian terrorist.

This morning, a Palestinian driver from Gaza, an employee of the Israeli bus company Egged, rammed the bus he was driving into a group of civilians and off-duty soldiers waiting at a bus stop near Holon in central Israel. Eight Israeli citizens were killed and 19 were injured, some critically.

The bus had just completed its morning route shuttling Palestinian workers from Gaza to their jobs in Israel, as part of the Israeli government programme to provide Palestinians with access to jobs in Israel, despite the security risks for Israel during this present wave of Palestinian violence.

The Hamas Izzadin al Kassam terrorist faction has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. It should be recalled that convicted terrorists of the same faction have recently been released from Palestinian Authority jails, in violation of signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements and despite repeated Israeli warnings that terrorist attacks would imminently result.

The Palestinian Authority cynically justified the attack, placing the responsibility for it on Israel.

The crime which was committed today is merely the latest in a series of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel and Israeli citizens. I have detailed these incidents, the number of which has sharply increased in recent weeks, in a number of letters addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132) and in my letters dated 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

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Israel now finds itself in a daily reality of ongoing Palestinian violence and terrorism directed against its citizens and security forces.

Israel places the responsibility for this latest attack on the Palestinian leadership, whose cynical approval for such attacks, both tacit and openly expressed, is the primary reason for the continuation of the current wave of violence. This support of violence stands in direct contradiction to repeated legal undertakings made by the Palestinian Authority in agreements concluded with Israel. It also stands in direct violation of Chairman Arafat's signed commitment of 9 September 1993, in which he renounced the use of terrorism and resolved to ensure the compliance of all elements and personnel under his authority with this principle.

The Palestinian Authority must understand that Israel cannot accept a situation in which the road to peace, to which all Israeli Governments are committed, is marked by such heinous events, which undermine the very foundation of the peace process.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 February 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should first of all like to congratulate you on having organized an open debate in the Security Council on peace-building, on the eve of the Fourth High-level United Nations-Regional Organizations Meeting which took place on 6 and 7 February 2001. I am pleased to inform you that a very productive exchange of views took place at that Meeting on the subject of cooperation for peace-building.

We agreed on a number of principles to guide our future cooperation and identified specific activities which we plan to undertake in this field. Those activities are summarized in the attached document, entitled "Framework for cooperation in peace-building", which reflects my personal understanding, as Chairman of the Meeting, of the various proposals that were presented (see annex I). I also attach a copy of my concluding statement, covering the main points of the discussion (see annex II), and a list of participants (see annex III).

Many participants placed emphasis on the fact that peace-building must be a home-grown process, in which the role of the United Nations and regional organizations is to support national endeavours. It was therefore decided that the promotion of self-reliance should be the fundamental goal of all cooperative peace-building activities by the United Nations and regional organizations.

While focusing on the opportunities for future cooperation, our Meeting also recognized that there are a number of constraints to effective peace-building activities. In particular, it was noted that there is often a lack of political support by the international community for long-term peace-building. In addition, the mandates given to the United Nations and regional organizations frequently exceed their capacities. Lastly, available resources are limited and are often drawn from the funds provided by Member States for other activities. I believe that these are all areas in which the Security Council could play an important role. It could address the issue when it resumes its debates on this subject on 16 February 2001.

I should be grateful if you would bring the attached documents to the attention of the members of the Security Council and I hope that they will support the results of our Meeting. Lastly, I wish to thank you for the important contribution which you made to the success of our Meeting.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex I

Framework for cooperation in peace-building*

Chairman's summary of the proposals presented at the Fourth High-level United Nations-Regional Organizations Meeting, New York, 6 and 7 February 2001

I. Guiding principles for cooperation in peace-building

- The promotion of **self-reliance** should be a fundamental goal of all cooperative peace-building activities. Hence, peace-building must be a **home-grown process** in which the role of the United Nations and regional organizations is to support **national endeavours**.
- The aim of cooperation in the field of peace-building is to ensure **speedy operational response** and **optimum mobilization of resources** — human, technical and financial — in a mutually supportive effort geared to the priority needs of the affected countries.
- Joint activities in the field of peace-building should be directed at **preventing** the **outbreak or recurrence of conflict**, with the cooperation of the parties concerned.
- Cooperation should be based on **comparative advantages** of the United Nations and regional organizations so as to lead to **complementarity of efforts**.
- Actions taken must be **multidisciplinary** in the widest sense and could encompass **five key areas of peace-building**: negotiation and implementation of peace agreements; security stabilization; good governance, democratization and human rights; justice and reconciliation; and humanitarian relief and sustainable development.
- **Mobilization of international assistance** should be undertaken in a coordinated fashion so that it fills priority gaps and is **complementary to the country's own efforts**.
- Assistance in peace-building should be guided by **needs** rather than by geographic preferences.
- Efforts must be made to ensure that peace-building is undertaken on the basis of **international legitimacy**.

II. Possible cooperative activities

A. Capacity-building

- **Establish peace-building units** in the United Nations system and regional organizations and develop regular channels of communication on peace-building issues, including raising public awareness.

* This framework also applies to cooperation between the United Nations and participating intergovernmental organizations.

- **Strengthen existing national and regional mechanisms** for prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building.
- **Exchange lists of staff officers** involved in peace-building activities by country/region and functional areas.
- **Visits of staff** involved in peace-building at working level between the different headquarters.
- Develop **joint training** of staff in all aspects of peace-building.
- Develop **mechanisms and procedures** for mutually supportive peace-building operations.
- Exchange information on the **peace-building capabilities** of the United Nations and regional organizations.
- Jointly examine ways to build **links to civil society** organizations (including outreach to the public through the media and contacts with research institutions).

B. Strategic development

- Establish an **information exchange mechanism** for early warning, analysis and better understanding of the root causes of conflict, and determine at which point a particular situation is "ripe" for mutually supportive peace-building action.
- Consider **joint preliminary assessment missions** to the field, wherever possible.
- Conduct regular **joint working group meetings**, both at Headquarters and in the field, to define the political objectives and key priority issues of a peace-building strategy.

C. Operational interaction

- Establish **focal points and consultative processes** for the following operational purposes:
- Ensure that **peace settlements** mediated by the United Nations and regional organizations include commitments by the parties to the conflict to concerted action in the key priority areas of peace-building. Such agreements should be realistic in terms of their political objectives and financial implications.
- Mainstream a **gender perspective**, the **protection of children** and the **rights of individuals** and **minorities** into peace agreements and peace-building strategies. **Considerations** related to **refugees as well as small arms, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration** should also be fully included.
- Ensure effective "**division of labour**" between agencies of the United Nations and regional organizations involved in peace-building activities based on comparative advantage.

- **Promote coordination of peace-building operations** both at Headquarters and field levels.
- **Ensure wide dissemination** at Headquarters and in the field of the agreements reached at this and previous meetings.

D. Monitoring

- Establish **joint monitoring processes** to monitor the efficiency of cooperation (taking into account end of mission objectives).
- Establish **repertories of best practices and lessons learned** in the different functional areas of peace-building.

E. Mobilizing political will and resources

- **Joint holding of pledging conferences** (bringing together the United Nations, regional organizations, donor countries, the Bretton Woods institutions etc.) to mobilize expeditiously international political support and the essential resource requirements of peace-building in an affected country.
- Explore the possibility of an **international facility for financing quick start-up peace-building projects** or a standing peace-building **trust fund**.

III. Follow-up

- Undertake **follow-up at the working level** to develop the above possible modalities for peace-building and further develop the 13 modalities for conflict prevention jointly identified by the Third High-level United Nations-Regional Organizations Meeting (July 1998). The first such meeting could be convened by the United Nations before the end of 2001.
- **Regional workshops** could also be convened by interested regional organizations to discuss specific regional dimensions of cooperation in conflict prevention and peace-building.

Annex II

Statement made by the Secretary-General at the concluding session of the Fourth High-level United Nations-Regional Organizations Meeting

I think you will all agree that we have had a very productive exchange of views on the crucial subject of peace-building. Before we disperse, I would like to highlight some of the main points of the discussion, which appeared to command a broad measure of agreement:

- Peace-building is essentially a home-grown process, in which the role of the United Nations, and of regional organizations, is to support *national* endeavours.
- An effective peace-building strategy must address the *root causes* of conflict.
- Peace-building has a fundamentally *political* character. The different components of a peace-building strategy need to contribute to the overall goal of preventing the outbreak or recurrence of conflict.
- Peace-building must be seen as a *comprehensive* strategy, involving political, social, developmental and humanitarian measures. The precise mix of measures needs to be carefully tailored to each situation, and to involve a broad range of national or international actors.
- Peace-building must include measures for promoting *good governance*, the rule of law, democratization and human rights as key components of a sustainable peace.
- The specific needs of *women*, and of vulnerable groups, such as *children and minorities*, are a key component of any peace-building strategy.
- *Quick-impact projects* can play an important role in the early phases of a peace-building operation.
- *Peacekeeping operations should incorporate peace-building as an integral component.* Efforts should be made to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to long-term peace-building, particularly with regard to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, the training of civilian police, and measures to prevent the spread of small arms and light weapons.
- Each organization must conduct its peace-building activities *on the basis of its own mandate* so as to ensure the legitimacy of its actions.
- The United Nations and regional organizations must cooperate more closely in *sharing information* in order to better analyse and understand the multifaceted roots and dynamics of conflict.
- Ideally, all relevant actors in peace-building should *come together early* in the negotiating phase of a peace agreement to ensure effective implementation and to avoid duplication of efforts.
- We all need to be more aware of each other's capabilities in this field in order to ensure that our efforts complement each other.

Our discussions also identified a number of *obstacles* to more effective peace-building. Often, for example, there is a lack of sustained political support by the international community for long-term peace-building after the signing of a peace agreement. In addition, the mandates given to the United Nations and regional organizations frequently exceed their capacities. And the resources for peace-building are limited, often drawn from the same pool of funds provided by Member States for other activities.

There is also a fundamental paradox inherent in peace-building. On the one hand, effective peace-building requires the long-term engagement of the international community. On the other hand, there is always the danger of making a society permanently dependent on development assistance. That is why so many of us stressed that peace-building needs to be a *home-grown* process, supported by the international community but aimed ultimately at promoting *national self-reliance*.

At our last meeting, in 1998, we established a practical framework for cooperation in the field of conflict prevention. This meeting has expanded that framework to the complementary field of peace-building. We have also agreed to bring these two efforts together in future follow-up activities.

I hope we have moved the international community another step forward in its journey from a "culture of reaction" to a "culture of prevention". And I hope that the Security Council will be able to support the results of our meeting when it reconvenes next week.

Our organizations have now had four meetings aimed at better cooperation and partnership. My sense is that we are making important progress. Let us hope that the next in this series of meetings is equally productive. And meanwhile, let us ensure that there is effective follow-up to this one. Thank you for coming.

Annex III

List of participants

Regional organizations*

Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Caribbean Community
Commonwealth of Independent States
Commonwealth Secretariat
Council of Europe
Council of the European Union
Economic Community of West African States
European Commission
International Organization of La Francophonie
League of Arab States
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Organization of African Unity
Organization of American States
Organization of the Islamic Conference
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Pacific Islands Forum
Presidency of the Council of the European Union
Southern African Development Community

United Nations organs

President of the General Assembly
President of the Security Council
President of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations agencies

International Monetary Fund
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Office at Geneva
United Nations Office at Vienna
World Bank
World Food Programme

* As well as participating intergovernmental organizations.

Regional Commissions

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Secretariat

Department for Disarmament Affairs

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Department of Political Affairs

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Under-Secretary-General for special assignments in support of the Secretary-General's preventive and peacekeeping efforts

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Letter dated 16 February 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in follow-up of my recent letter, dated 1 February 2001 (A/55/760-S/2001/98), regarding the reported use by the Israeli occupying forces of depleted uranium against Palestinian targets. I have been instructed to inform you that the Israeli occupying forces have used, at least on one occasion, an unknown type of gas against Palestinian civilians. This grave and serious matter is yet another part of the brutal Israeli military campaign being carried against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, in recent months.

In this regard, according to a report by the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health, the Israeli army fired, on 12 February 2001, an unknown type of gas at civilians in Khan Yunis, which resulted in the admission of 40 Palestinians to local hospitals. The hospitals reported various odd symptoms of neurological fits and convulsions, which those patients who had been exposed to the gas were overcome by. Some of the victims were discharged, while others continue to be under close medical care.

The Palestinian Authority unfortunately lacks the expertise and facilities necessary for identifying the type of gas being used, as well as the appropriate antidote. Accordingly, we are seeking the assistance of the available expertise in the United Nations system in examining and defining the type or types of gas being used in these incidents. In this regard, your personal attention and guidance would be highly appreciated.

01-25364 (E) 160201

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 41 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council

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Letter dated 14 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2001, I have the honour to inform you that the African Group, in its meeting held on 9 February 2001, discussed the latest developments concerning the "Lockerbie" question, after the verdict by the Scottish Court sitting in the Netherlands was pronounced.

The African Group reaffirms its well-known position concerning this question and its continued support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the manner with which it dealt with the "Lockerbie" question.

The settlement reached among the three parties concerned, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, through the Secretary-General, would not have been possible, if the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had not fully cooperated to resolve this issue.

Based on these facts, the African Group emphasizes its support for Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's demand for an immediate and complete lifting of the sanctions.

The African Group calls upon the Security Council to adopt the following:

1. The immediate and complete lifting of the measures imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993), which should have been lifted 90 days after their suspension and upon the receipt of the Secretary-General's report, in accordance with paragraph 16 of resolution 883 (1993) and paragraph 8 of resolution 1192 (1998).

2. Not to link the lifting of the sanctions to the end of the trial and its outcome, since there is no basis whatsoever for that, either in the resolutions of the Security Council or in the agreements reached through the United Nations and mediators who played a very important role, and which has been acknowledged and appreciated by the Council (S/PRST/1999/10).

3. No party has the right to retract from its commitments or further its demands, particularly, if that same party was the one that presented the draft resolutions to the Security Council, and accepted the agreements referred to previously. According to

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Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council assumes its responsibilities on behalf of the international community. Therefore, it cannot be acceptable at all to subjugate the work of the Security Council to the interest of one of its members.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2001